

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:575
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
DECENTRALISATION OF FOODGRAIN PROCUREMENT
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government constituted a Chief Minister's Committee to evolve a mechanism for bringing down mounting subsidy bill on account of handling foodstocks;
- (b) if so, whether the proposal of Union Government for Decentralised Foodgrain Procurement to prevent wastage and cut subsidy bill was rejected by the State Governments;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 575 FOR ANSWER ON 31-08-2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e): Pursuant to the Chief Ministers Conference held on 21.5.2001, a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agricultural Exports has been constituted. The Standing Committee, in its first meeting held on 6.7.2001, discussed the issue of decentralized procurement. There was, however, no consensus on the issue.

It was clarified on behalf of the Government of India in the said meeting that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. It was also emphasised that in order to make the concept of minimum support prices a reality for all farmers everywhere in the country, it was necessary to encourage States to take up procurement operations. The Government of India would work out a detailed scheme in consultation with State Governments to share gains of localised procurement.